

# Corporation for National and Community Service

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## AWARD NOTIFICATION: SENIOR CORPS RSVP EXPANSION GRANTS

### Background

Throughout the country, Senior Corps engages the skills, talents, and experience of more than 245,000 Americans age 55 and over to meet a wide range of community challenges through a network of three programs — the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program and RSVP. Through Senior Corps, older adults make a real difference through the lives of individuals and as they help increase the capacity of nonprofit organizations, community agencies, faith-based and tribal organizations throughout the United States. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) awards grants to these local organizations and public agencies to administer these programs.

RSVP strengthens public and nonprofit agencies by building the infrastructure needed to efficiently and effectively mobilize experienced and skilled volunteers with vital programs and services. One of the largest volunteer efforts in the country, RSVP engages more than 208,000 older adults, retired or not, who use their skills and life experience in volunteer service that helps solve challenges facing communities. RSVP volunteers serve in diverse volunteer roles that may include: intergenerational education; access to care including opioid abuse/prevention; transportation services that support aging in place; housing services and activities in evidence-based programs. Additionally, they help increase the capacity of local organizations by recruiting and managing other volunteers.

In January 2017, Senior Corps opened the 2017 RSVP Expansion Competition with a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). This national competition was an opportunity for communities—with no current RSVP program—to apply for funds and establish new programs that address national priorities. The response was tremendous. Requests for funding outpaced the available funding amount by more than five times resulting in a highly competitive applicant pool. In accordance with the criteria and process established by the NOFO, 50 organizations were selected to be awarded grants. Together, these grants total a funding amount of \$5,370,177 for a total of 7,766 new RSVP volunteers.

### Award Information

**Recipient:** Hampshire Council of Governments  
Old County Courthouse, 99 Main Street  
Northampton, Massachusetts 01060 - 3163  
(413) 584-1300

**Program Contact:** Lindsey Bennett-Jacobs, [lbennett-jacobs@hampshirecog.org](mailto:lbennett-jacobs@hampshirecog.org)

**Award Amount:** \$110,000 per year/3 years (pending annual appropriations)

**Target Geography:** Hampshire County, Massachusetts

### **Program Summary:**

Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG), a voluntary association of cities and towns, contributes to the overall quality of life in the region by helping cities and towns improve quality of services. The RSVP program will engage 300 unduplicated volunteers, 110 of which will be in impact-based assignments. RSVP volunteer activities will include seniors brown bag groceries, senior companionship, Healthy Bones & Balance classes, transportation, and money management. The project will contribute to Economic Opportunity through building homes and ESL tutoring. Volunteers will also provide extensive capacity building support through consulting, fundraising, and blood drives as well as support to local veterans' organizations.